



THE BELL RINGER



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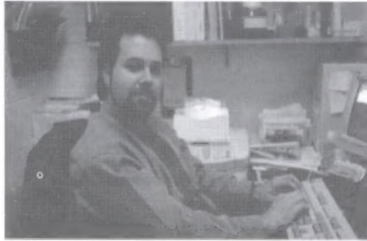
Changes to be Made in Food Service

By Gabe Roth

In light of student concerns over the food service, from the price of lunch items, to lack of choice in the meal plan, from the size of certain portions to possible health problems, Sodexho manager Mark Hill has started looking for ways to cater to the needs of the students better.

MBA has employed Sodexho for the past five years. The school changed its food service provider after the 1994-95 academic year, choosing one that would be able to cater events on campus, from Board Meeting

breakfasts to Cum Laude dinners, along with providing breakfast and lunch services to students and faculty. In addition, Sodexho prepares all of



Mark Hill, head of Sodexho's operations at MBA for the past five years, constantly works on ways to improve the food service

the spaghetti for the Spaghetti Supper on Homecoming weekend and then sells it to the Mother's Club for a low price.

Mr. Hill, who has been working with Sodexho at MBA for five years, is encouraging suggestions for improvement in the food service. A food committee consisting of one student from each grade, as well as some faculty members, has been created. Its first

meeting was held Tuesday, November 2, in order to brainstorm ideas.

"It's a start," says Robert Womack, who represents the senior class on the committee and whose article, "Piracy in Frist Hall" led to the heightened concern on the part of the administration.

Along with Robert Womack, the Food Committee is composed of Mr. Hill, junior Moses Osemwegie, sophomore Ross Johnson, and freshman Peter Christenberry, and faculty members Mr. Peter Thurmond, Mr. Dick Klausner, Mr. Julian Jones, Mrs. Ann Orth, and Mrs. Virginia Bradshaw. At the initial November 2

meeting, suggestions, including free refills and larger portions, were considered and discussed.

The Food Committee will be meeting every month or two to talk about the concerns of both students and faculty members about the type, quality, and price of the food Sodexho is offering to the MBA community.



Everyone's favorite Sodexho worker

But as Mr. Hill says, "Anyone can come to me with suggestions." Sodexho is not just an MBA

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Homecoming Weekend Review

By Andy Gray

The 1999 MBA Homecoming weekend, held on October 15-16, was crowned with success. From the dedication Friday morning until the Saturday night dance, everything went smoothly and as planned, with only a few minor imperfections. After a long period of anticipation, the two days, imbued with excitement and good spirits, lived up to nearly all expectations.

More than usual, the tension was apparent Friday as the student body anxiously watched the clock in anticipation of the upcoming weekend. Predictably, talk centered more on dates and plans for Friday and Saturday night than on science or

history essays. The early dismissal approached quickly.

Just before noon, classes were dismissed and the student body breathed a communal sigh of relief.

The formal dedication of the new Ingram science building was



1999 Homecoming Court

somewhat brief. After an opening speech from our student body president, Johnny Sisk, Mr. Gioia and Mayor Bill Purcell, and Mr. Benjamin Gambill, Chairman of the Board, spoke, acknowledging the building as a tremendous asset to MBA and its presence as a benchmark of the school's prosperity. Michael DeBruyn contributed an enjoyable musical piece

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Cross-Country Strong Second in State Meet

JV did.

By William Sisk

With the 1999

Cross Country regular season at to a close, the Mighty Big Red almost came up victorious for a third straight year in the State meet.

The team ended the regular season dominating all other schools for the most part, thanks in part to the JV runners, while the big Varsity types kept their sights on the much larger, and more important, meets. These meets consisted of Region, Metro, and State.

Even though there were JV races in the Region and the Metro (once again, totally dominated by great JV runners Clayton Trammell and myself), no one really cared how the



1999 Cross-Country team's Top Nine
Back Row: Andrew Frazer, Nick Reid, William Lea, William Corbett, Morgan Miller
Front Row: Nathan Mulherin, Brandon Booth, Jeff Sweeney, Clayton Trammell

The Varsity tore up the competition in the Region and Metro meets thanks to outstanding performances by sophomore dominators Brandon Booth and Nick Reid. Proving to be very pivotal

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Service Club Works on More Projects

After a great month of October, opportunities for service continue in late fall and winter months

By Sumeet Vaikunth

The month of October was an especially busy one for the Service Club.

It began with a successful, well-attended Soup Kitchen, and during the two weeks leading up to Homecoming, there was a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank, in which a large amount of canned goods were collected.

The week of October 11 turned out to be especially demanding. That week, saw the club running Vanderbilt and Titans parking, along with the Southern Book Festival's setup on Thursday and takedown on Sunday, and the "Our Kids" project.

The highlight of the month was the incredible turnout for the Belle Meade Terrace Nursing Home Project. Led by Robert Womack, the students gave their time to speak to the elderly in the nursing home.

The next week, with a rest from

parking, the Junior League invited Harpeth Hall and MBA to help out with another Habitat for Humanity House. Along with a group of Vanderbilt students, Jesse Bull and Jonathan Mirian took the lead in helping out on Sunday.

November promises to be another month of great service opportunities.

Thanks to the efforts of Kevin Small, there is currently a toiletry drive going on and items can be dropped into the yellow bin in the Ball Building.

Upcoming projects include the Christmas Village and Releaf Nashville.

Other regular projects will continue as well, such as the Belcourt Nursing Home project, "Our Kids," and Service Club members will also serve as teen activity leaders for students at the St. Vincent Depaul School.

MBA Makes Strong National Showing

Football, Academics, and Debate receive recognition for their outstanding accomplishments

By Steven Syverud

Even before USA Today came out on Tuesday, November 9, MBA was celebrating.

The publication, which weekly ranks the top 25 high school football teams in the nation, as well as the top ten football teams in each region of the country, called MBA Headmaster Mr. Brad Gioia at 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning to tell him about USA Today's selection of MBA as a member of the Top 25.

When the paper came on Tuesday, it was revealed that MBA secured the twenty-second spot in the Top 25 poll and is currently ranked ninth in the Southeast region.

After dominating victories over Christian Brothers, 47-7, and Father Ryan, 55-12, the MBA football team's status as a national powerhouse rose, not only with USA Today's poll.

Pollsters were impressed by the

fact that the MBA defense was able to hold the Purple Wave to just two yards rushing (and 145 yards of total offense) and force five turnovers, while the offense picked up 414 yards of total offense.

Ted Hall's power ratings of teams throughout Tennessee has MBA in its top spot, with a rating of 98.39. Riverdale is second at 85.12.

According to Fox Sports, MBA has the eighth best team in the South and the twenty-eighth best team in the nation.

The Dick Butkus Football Network goes so far as to list the Big Red as the eleventh best team in the entire country.

On the academic front, twenty MBA seniors received national recognition for their scores on the PSAT/NMSQT, which they took in October of their junior years.

Of these students, nine received National Merit Commendee status: Chris Camp, Ben Davis, Brad McDowell, Brad Renick, Tate Rich, Elisha Robinson, Barton Simmons, Taylor Sutherland and Robert Womack.

Eleven students qualified as National Merit Semifinalists: Andy Andrews, Brent Burish, Peyton Cooke, Sebastian Enguidanos, Sheeta Jain, William Lea, Matt Neal, John Peek, Jay Pettus, Gabe Roth, and Andrew Thomison.

Students who are semi-finalists will shortly be receiving notices informing them whether or not they are finalists. In order to become a finalist, these eleven students needed to fill out a form that including an essay about the students' activities, interests, and personality.

The MBA debate team also received national honors.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology rated the MBA extemporaneous speakers as the country's best in their preseason rankings.

MIT ranked senior Adam Johnson the nation's best extemporaneous speaker. Junior Jonathan Mott ranked 24th in the nation in the same category, higher than any other junior in the country.

Changes to be Made in Food Service

phenomenon. The company is owned by Marriott and runs cafeterias at

many area school, including Father Ryan High School, University School, Goodpasture High School, St. Cecilia Academy, and Franklin Road Academy. Certain standards are set by the father company that apply for each division; for example, the salad bowls, which students often complain are too small, are sent down by Marriott.

Questions have been raised about the menu itself, whether it can change, or whether MBA is stuck on a cycle. But as Mr. Hill says, "The easiest thing to change is the menu." Prices have also been of great

concern on campus. One suggestion, in the process of being discussed by representatives of Sodexo and by faculty

members, is a meal card good for one week (five days) of lunches. The meal card would have five numbers on it, each number representing one "A" (entrée), two "B's" (side dish or small salad), and one "C" (drink).

One "D" might also be included, but that would raise the price of the card.

The meal card would enable a student to get his lunch, if he is not on the meal plan and does not bring his lunch, at a discount. This discount "would not be as large as that for students on the meal plan, but it would still be significant," adds Mr. Hill.

It is important to note that there is much to be proud of in the current way the system is running. For example, the same custodial firm

cleans Father Ryan High School, and they point out, without being prompted, that MBA's lunch room is much

cleaner than Ryan's. "MBA [functions] as the best cafeteria among them (the high schools Sodexo serves)," says Mr. Hill.

The senior class, often berated for not being respectful, are "the most polite," according to Mr. Hill, to the servers and cashiers.



Some students think that the price of salad is too high and the portion too small



When a student wants a salad on the side, he may not be able to fit more than two pieces of lettuce and a cucumber or two in a bowl of this size

Pickering, '59, Speaks at Festival of Books

By Cal Alexander

(Editor's note: Samuel F. Pickering, Jr., '59, was his senior class president and went on to become a much-loved MBA teacher.)

One of his students, Tom Schulman, enjoyed his contrived method of teaching so much that he wrote a screenplay about Mr. Pickering, which became the popular movie *Dead Poet's Society*, starring Robin Williams as that very teacher.

Mr. Pickering is currently of neither of much renown and last addressed the MBA community at the commencement ceremony in 1998.

The tall, lean man shifted his weight from one leg to the other. His friendly eyes scanned the crowd as he paced, waiting to be let into the conference room. His mind was at work assessing the diversity of the audience. He began to crack jokes on what was taking the other group that was using the conference room so long. Then, he would ask someone how he or she was doing and engage him or her in conversation. He

maintained everyone who attended the eleventh annual Southern Festival of Books held October 8-10 at the Legislative Plaza.

Once inside the Senate chamber, he stood before the C-SPAN cameras. The reporters said they needed a few minutes to prepare, but Samuel Pickering's lively spirit could not be contained. He

began reading from his latest book, *A Little Fling*, another in a series of novels about a contentious Southern family. Mr. Gioia was supposed to introduce him, but Mr. Pickering decided to start and then let our

broader introduce him when the cameras were ready. Mr. Pickering's

irrespressible liveliness struck me from the very start. I had heard much about him from my parents, but meeting him in person was a different experience. He even remembered my brother, Dave, from an encounter at his graduation two years ago. When I mentioned it, he recognized my father's name right away from his freshman football

team. His great, affable energy spread to everyone around him.

When Mr. Gioia had a chance, he summarized the character and life of Mr. Pickering with anecdotes from his stories and life. Mr. Pickering's

crisp, bough echoing behind him. Mr. Pickering then returned to the spotlight, which had never really left him, and continued his conference. Laughing at his own actions and stories, he raised the spirits of everyone in the room to his level. There was a sense of respect permeating the atmosphere of the Senate chamber.

Those who attended came to hear Mr. Pickering speak about his philosophies on life and how they are incorporated into his actions. They were awed by his stories. The affected crowd asked only three questions, which Mr. Pickering answered calmly and honestly. His straightforward and entertaining manner charmed his guests once again, just as he had at the MBA graduation ceremony for the Class of 1968, and just as he did as a teacher at MBA. Applause, gratitude, and congratulations bombarded him as he stepped down from the platform.

He left his infectious smile on each audience member's face.



Sam Pickering's senior picture

Homecoming Weekend Review

and the chorus sang a couple of pleasant tunes. Finally, the dedication was completed with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony by Mr. Gioia, Mr. Ingram, and his daughter.

The additional MBA Spaghetti Supper was held Friday evening, October 15. Attendance was excellent, as the jazz band delivered the atmosphere with some songs, and the freshmen class provided service that was sometimes commendable.

Following the Spaghetti Supper, the Big Red charged onto the gridiron with their usual intensity,

overwhelming and embarrassing Christian Brothers in a crushing 47-7 win.

The victory secured the Big Red a first place position in Division II-AA.

Junior linebacker Moses Owanogbo led the defense with eight tackles and two sacks. Quarterback Jingle Martin ran for three touchdowns and passed for another, and kickers Sam Holland and Paul Weisner knocked in a field goal each.

This spectacular win erased any doubt concerning the identity

of the rulers of Division II-AA.

With spirits high on the previous night's spectacular victory, students flocked on Saturday night to the gridiron.

Homecoming dance. For the most part, the underclassmen walked



MBA members helping with the Spaghetti Supper

through the door, paid the reasonable entrance fee (\$5.00 per couple), made a bee line for the photographer, waited in an amusingly unorganized, aggravating line, had their pictures taken and departed in search of some form of entertainment greater than the band hired for the dance.

Much of the senior class,

however, remained for the bulk of the dance, forming a pin in front of the stage, as they moved to the music of Gino and his band.

Generally those who did listen to the band agreed that the music was "okay" and "fun to dance to."

Thus, the dance was successful, as expected, the only aspect in need of improvement being the organization of the line

for photographs.

The weekend was befitting the present period of prosperity in the life of MBA.

Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning, as the last guys dropped off their dates. Homecoming weekend showed in a fair after two days of excitement, fun, and victory.



Mr. Gioia, Mr. Ingram, and his daughter, cut the ribbon and symbolically open the Goodell Goodbye, with the new Massey addition in the background



Mayor Bill Parovisi addresses the student body at the dedication of the Ingram science building, new Massey addition, and Goodell Quadrangle on October 15, 1999



Senior dance around Gino's stage

In Defense of Playstation in Roberts Room

By Barton Simmons

This past summer, when the school year was rapidly approaching, I looked around campus, and while I was impressed with the construction, I was also a little discomforted. I could not help but think that the Class of 2000 would get the shaft. The buildings did not look anywhere close to finished and the word was that last year's senior room was becoming

due to the use of Playstation during study halls.

Now, some teachers may condemn the use of a Playstation in our senior room, citing such reasons as distracting from a learning environment, providing too much distraction to underclassmen, or even providing too much distraction for the mature and diligent senior class. The teachers with these delusions I ask simply to read the following:

Firstly, Playstation is a privilege only to be exercised by seniors and therefore the Playstation should not be a distraction to underclassmen. Since they should not be around the senior room in the first place. Secondly, one of the many good qualities of a

Playstation's presence on campus is it makes the average senior's day more pleasant. The student can go to school knowing that between classes, he can relax to a game of NCAA Football 2000. This motivation to have a free moment to play also gives the student extra incentive to get his homework done before school at home. Most of all, however, the Playstation give relief to the average senior's pressure-filled life. With AP classes, senior

seminar, art projects, college essays and recommendations, athletics, and plays all part of many seniors day-to-day schedule, sometimes it just seems like too much. Playstation is a relief that many of us need. We, as seniors, are confident that with an understanding administration headed by Mr. Gioia and Mr. Regen, and a capable

class president in Johnny Sisk, that this issue will be settled as it should, and the Playstation will once again sit in the Roberts Room where it belongs.

To all the faculty members who are still skeptical, remember that Playstation is not bad, but it is a friend of education.



Seniors relaxing in the Roberts Room the midst of another tough school day

office space. My senior year was going to take place in cramped classrooms with moving boxes surrounding me and no senior room as a sanctuary. Imagine my delight when the science building was suddenly finished and the Roberts Room was named as our senior room! Since that moment, however, my optimism has declined. The school year has been dotted with suspensions from the Roberts Room, much of which was

Science Teachers OK Plotting to give demerits is a false rumor

By Mr. Robert Pruitt

While not really nominating myself as the defender of Science (knowledge), I felt that the self-serving article in the last Bell Ringer

by Dom Smith should not go unchallenged. I first should say that he needs some better insults. Webster's states that a cynic means that one "exhibits feelings ranging from distrustful doubt to disbelief." Most scientists I know, particularly MBA

science teachers, take this as a compliment. If you want a more ancient and philosophical definition of cynic, see Mr. Gaither.

Dom's main, unscientific error,

is however, not knowing the facts. A recent survey of demerit lists simply does not support his accusation that the science teachers give too many demerits.

In fact, if you disregard administrative demerits (Mr. Regen, demerit supervisors), then about 20% of recent demerits were given by science faculty. Since the science department makes up about one sixth (16%) of the faculty, I'll let you decide if we are over-represented on the demerit rolls.

It is, however, interesting that if you limit the demerit analysis to those behaviors that Mr. Smith apparently enjoys (late to class, unshaven appearance, dress code violations, and itinerant eating) the percent attributable to science faculty goes up to almost 30%.

In fairness I should also point out that the science faculty gives close to 100% of the demerits for missing lab.

I personally think these data do not indicate overzealousness on the part of members of my department, but rather laxity on the part of the English and History types. I'll leave further statistical analysis to Dr. Shackelford and Mr. Caldwell.

In closing, I would like to suggest another definition of cynic: one who agrees to a certain code of dress or behavior, then whines when it is enforced.



Mr. Pruitt discussing his rebuttal with Morgan Miller, one of his runners

The American Language

By Hud Connery

We are required to take English classes in order to read great works in literature and to improve our grammar and writing skills. We are required to take math classes because it is necessary in many jobs and it will be needed especially in the rapidly-growing world of technology. We are required to take history classes because we must understand why the word exists as it does today and to understand the different cultures of our world. We are required to take science classes to understand the complexities of the physical universe. And we are required to take Fine Arts classes to express our feelings and beliefs and to develop our creativity helps us in every other intellectual discipline. Have I left out any classes that are important to a student living

in America? No, I have not. Required foreign language classes for a basic American student are a complete waste of time. A British student would have great need for these classes, but not a student who can travel 3000 miles and still be able to speak the language of the local population. I am not a bigot towards other people and their cultures, but in my experience, what I had learned in my own language was sufficient, and as far as communication is concerned, my English was more than adequate. Moreover, as long as I am on my home soil I should never need to know an alternate tongue. If immigrants want to come here, they should learn the language first.

In most of the United States, students begin to take foreign language classes when they are about

thirteen years old. The most commonly taught languages are French, German, Latin, and Spanish. However, very little is gained from this study. I will explain why I have come to this conclusion: I have been to France twice in my life, once not knowing any French beyond "Bonjour" and "Merci," the second with a small amount of training from a year in French I. Both times, however, my English was more than enough, considering that practically every person spoke decent English. As far as the German language is concerned, I have never been to a German speaking nation. This may be because there are only three in the entire world and they are all located in the same area. This brings up the question whether there is

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World Series Does Not Live up to Hype

By Johnny Sisk

Ah, the World Series ... It symbolizes so very much: the end of yet another season, a week where dreams are fulfilled and realized for a special few, the arrival of fall in the form of chilly October. Yes, the World Series – does anyone really care anymore? I did. This year I actually managed to get pumped up about baseball's fall classic. It was the Braves and the Yankees – a rematch of the 1996 contenders, a war between the north and south, and a

battle for team of the decade. It's sure to be a great series, I kept telling myself. How could I have let Atlanta actually get my hopes up? In this decade in which I have grown up, I have learned that there are two constants in any World Series – the Atlanta Braves and the team they're going to lose to. I don't care how good the Braves are – eight times out of ten they will lose the World Series. No, really, they have actually managed to lose four out of five World Series this decade. Saying the Braves are

world champions is like saying Woody Widenhoffer is Vince Lombardi.

The Braves have been to the playoffs the last eight straight years, a major league record. In those eight years, they've managed to lose to the Twins, Padres, Marlins, and even the Blue Jays – Canadians! Chop, chop, chop! As late as 1996, they choked like never before. Leading the Yanks 2-0 and having stolen home field advantage, they lost four straight – three at Fulton County. Chop, chop ... Turner Field hasn't made much difference either. They just got swept losing the first two in their own infant stadium. They've made it eight straight times and lost in seven of those years. The Braves are nothing if not a well-oiled model of inefficiency. Chop, cho ... oh, just give it up. You've got to hand it to them though, they went out in style, didn't they? Losing four straight to the Yankees of all teams. By the way, the only championship they did win came against the Cleveland Indians, the biggest losers in baseball history. How do you think they feel?

And thanks for making it such a great series, Hot-lanta. There is something wrong in baseball when the most exciting moment of the championship series involves NBC sideline

reporter, Jim Gray – *Jim Gray* – who verbally assaulted would-be Hall-of-Famer Pete Rose. I'd actually like to take this opportunity to personally thank Jim Gray for his ambush. At least someone was trying to make this series exciting, Chipper.

They've had their chance, and it's over. Who would have ever thought that the Braves would be known as the Most Talented Choke Artists of the 1990's? Most talented? Atlanta's ball club is the Picasso of Choke Artists – the greatest losers in professional sports this decade. Can you hear the New York Knicks breathing a sigh of relief? Jim Kelly and the Buffalo Bills are uncorking their champagne as we speak. The bubbly is flowing in cities with sorry sports franchises everywhere. It's time to celebrate! Everywhere but in Atlanta, which has managed to give us both a Super Bowl and World Series loser in the past year alone. Don't hang your heads so low though, Atlanta. You'll always be everybody's favorite second-place team.

So what if you're the most talented losers to ever walk the earth? You are, without a doubt, the greatest first-place losers ever. Second to none.

Headmaster's List

By Robert Womack

This year, seniors have the opportunity to be placed on the Headmaster's List. For those who don't know what this is, the Headmaster's List is similar to the privilege list, except that you need to get an 88 average instead of an 86 at the mid-quarter for the first quarter and then at the quarter for the rest of

nice to just go "run an errand" for two periods and not have to worry about getting back to school to sign in just so that you can come back, sit on the benches in the Quadrangle, and maybe play with Fred (not that there's anything wrong with playing with Fred). I am simply saying that students on the Head-master's List should be given the freedom and

independence to leave the campus for more than one period a day. If students can get back to school on time constantly for one period a day, what

would be so wrong if they were allowed to go out for longer than that? MBA is a college preparatory school. At college, students have more independence than they have in high school. Maybe this school could possibly prepare these students a little by giving them this freedom and responsibility.

It takes a lot of work to get on the Headmaster's List. This privilege points out that the student does have responsibility and can be trusted to handle this privilege like he handles his schoolwork. Although it is a frightening thought for some people to give seniors more privileges, I think that they should think twice. These seniors deserve a little more for working hard and good grades.

HEADMASTER'S LIST

NAME	DATE	Time OUT	Time IN	PLACE
Adam Dixon	10/29	11:55	11:20	errand
Dylan Thomson	10/29	11:00	11:50	errand
Ben Davis	10/29	11:00		errand
Brad Renick	10/29	11:05		errand
Robert Womack	10/29	11:35	12:00	errand
Tim Egan	10/29	11:35	12:00	errand
Brad McNeill	10/29	11:40	11:55	errand
Ryan Lala	10/29	11:40		errand
Michael Brown	10/29	12:00	1:15	Home
John A. L.	10/29	1:20		Home OK Rgn
John Bell	10/29	1:35		Home
CHP 10/29/98 TH	10/29	1:40		errand

The Headmaster's List sign-out sheet on October 29: The names have been blurred to protect the innocent errand-runners

the school year. The students who receive this average have the ability to sign out of school to leave campus at any time of the day they want. To leave campus, one must sign out in the main office on a sign-out sheet. To leave campus, however, you've got to have a plausible reason as to why you must leave campus. Most guys usually run "errands," some have "gone to Russia," "bed," or "play stickball in the theater" while others put "lunch," signing out at 2:00.

These students can only sign out for one period, and if they sign out at 8th period, they must return by the end of the school day, or demerits will be given. Some of the guys on HL have 4th period study hall, and 5th period lunch. Now, wouldn't it be

THE BELL RINGER

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to ringer@montgomerybell.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

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9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
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10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.**

Predictions for the Betting Man

By Zac Hood

The following information will be quite useful in determining who to bet on for the upcoming sports seasons as well as the college football national champion. In college football, the one key game remaining is Florida State vs. Florida. The Seminoles will come into Gainesville unbeaten with their national championship hopes on the line. If Florida defeats Florida State with only one loss, they will go to New Orleans. If they win with more than one loss, Tennessee will be going, but if Florida State wins, the Noles will be in contention for yet another national championship. All of these games will turn out to be meaningless because the national champion will be none of those teams. The national champion will be Virginia Tech, who will go undefeated and roll over whoever they play in the Sugar Bowl. What about Kansas State or Mississippi State (who were still unbeaten at press time)? Why can't they be the champion? They have too tough a schedule remaining to go undefeated and will fall to one of their remaining opponents. This year the Hokies will be crowned national champions.

The Stanley Cup Champions this year will not come from the powerhouses of the previous years. This season will be filled with surprises. The Stanley Cup finalists will be the Florida Panthers and the San Jose Sharks, led by the leading

goal scorer Owen Nolan and goalie Steve Shields. As for the Predators, look for them to surprise everyone in the NHL, except for themselves, and make the playoffs. Making a valiant effort, the Predators will fall in the first round but not before they earn some respect.

The NFL this year will see some new faces in the Super Bowl. Two teams will stand out from all of the others in a year where the usually dominant teams have not fared so well. St. Louis will lose to New England because the Rams will be content with just getting to Atlanta. The Patriots will be ready to win this time, as Drew Bledsoe will take them all the way. The Titans will make the playoffs but will come up just short of the Super Bowl.

The NBA will be extremely exciting this year and many teams will... Wait. Who cares about a league where players do not play defense, only care about their contracts, and even fail to look like they're trying. The college game is much more exciting than the NBA will ever be simply because of the desire and love just for the game and nothing else.

NCAA Basketball will be a very exciting season. Auburn, Cincinnati, Ohio State, and Michigan State will make it to Indianapolis provided they do not play each other before the final four. As long as Cincinnati can pass their Golf and AIDS Awareness classes without having off-the-court issues,

Crowell's Quips

With Andrew Thomison and Tee Isenbour

Dr. Harold Crowell, MBA senior faculty member and teacher at MBA since 1996, is known for his quick wit and biting humor. His physics classes are filled with quips about the private lives of his students, the MBA community, and the larger world.

In light of his ability to crack a good joke, or at least his ability to be laughed with (and at), the Bell Ringer staff has decided to share some of his knowledge with the rest of the MBA community.



"I'm old and I can make the most ridiculous things sound good."

"We had drive-in movies; you guys have to go to construction sites."

"Some of the young ladies were out sunbathing, which is probably a credit course over there [Harpe Hall]."

"Make me feel like a failure as a teacher and I'll megaprostate."

"I'm used to seeing tears on lab papers."

"Who cares what you'd like... You're a student!"

"Planning is important; education is merely useful."

"Terminal velocity for an unclutched human is about 60-120 mph."

"So you're standing there with some guy's intestines draped over your ears saying, 'I think I'll



follow directions next time."

"[Growing up] there was always a corpse on the table in the living room."

Taylor Sutherland: "What do you want me to say?"

Dr. Crowell: "I want you to say, 'I'll never date your daughter.'"

Robert Wernack: "What if we fail this test?"

Dr. Crowell: "Then next year you'll do better."

they will be the national champions. Tennessee will have as much talent as anyone but will need to make a coaching change after this year. Surprises of the year will be Illinois, DePaul, and Duke. Illinois and

DePaul will make great improvements from last year and have an impact in the NCAA tournament while Duke will end the season with many disappointing losses due to their inexperienced youth.

Golf Has Best Team Performance in Years

By Steven Syverud

The MBA golf team began the season slowly. Heading into the final three matches of the season, the Big

refused to quit.

"Deep down they believed in themselves," added Mr. Caldwell. "They had a lot of confidence and the

Their end-of-the season push put the Big Red in high hopes for the region tournament and their performance did not disappoint. The team captured first place in team competition with BGA, the nearest opponent, thirteen strokes back.

Mr. Caldwell called their incredible showing "the best single day a golf team I've coached had." Treat MacAllister placed first; Brad McDowell, third; Graham Worsham, fourth; and Carter Henderson, fifth.

Their performance in the region tournament qualified the Big Red for

the Tennessee State tournament. The Big Red played very well and, after twenty-seven holes, were tied for first with McCallie. McCallie, however, prevailed by five strokes over the talented MBA team, whose score in the tournament was the second best state effort in MBA history. Three Big Red golfers were named to the all-state team for their performances: Graham Worsham for finishing fourth, Treat MacAllister for sixth; and Duncan Fort for ninth.

With four of their top five golfers back next year, MBA ought to wreck havoc in the State tournament. Even if they have another slow start, the Big Red could capture the State crown.



Graham Worsham putting on the green

Red had won only four of fourteen matches.

"We had as difficult a schedule as we've ever had since I've been here," said Mr. Caldwell, the head coach of the golf team.

The Big Red would play well in almost every match but would come up just short in the end. Of their ten losses, five were by four strokes or less. Despite these setbacks, the team

best attitude I've seen in a while."

In the season's final weeks, the golfers started to play better and finally got some breaks. To end the regular season, they defeated division rivals USN, Brentwood Academy and Father Ryan by a combined 32 strokes. Sophomore Treat MacAllister and senior Brad McDowell led the way in these matches averaging 36 and 39 strokes a round, respectively.



Team Captain Brad McDowell tries to figure out a way out of the rough

Predators' Promising in Second Year

By John Eason

The Nashville Predators are back at it again in the 1999-2000 season and hoping to improve their record from last season.

Even though the Predators were an expansion team last year, much is expected from this young franchise.

During the preseason, the Predators failed to win a game and looked more like a first-year than a second-year team. This is not a good way to attract hockey fans.

In the first game of the season in the newly-named Gaylord Entertainment Center, the Predators faced off against the Los Angeles Kings.

The Predators were unable to give their fans a win on the first night. In the next couple of games, including a 5-1 loss to the San Jose Sharks, in which the team got off a record fifty-four shots, the Predators were once

again not looking very smooth and aggressive to the goal.

It looked as though they were going to have another sluggish beginning to a season.

On October 16, the Predators played the defending champs, the Dallas Stars, have been picked to repeat as Stanley Cup champions by

many sports writers.

The Predators played an

incredible game and came out a winner over Dallas, 3-2. This huge victory rekindled the spirits of the fans and began a stretch in which they compiled

four wins, including another one at home in which the team beat the Edmonton Oilers.

This was a great comeback from the dismal 0-3-1 record that we had after the first four games, except that a five game losing streak left the Predators at 4-8-1-1 and back near the bottom of their conference.

This team, however, has shown signs of improvement from last year. In Sergei Krivokrasov, the Predators have a top goal scorer, and rookie David Legwand has shown early

promise.

The large amount of young talent can only get better.

The coaching staff, with head coach Barry Trotz, is level-headed and excited to start a new season.

The rebuilding process will continue in Nashville, and this team will be able to make a strong run for the playoffs next year.

These games are incredible and full of excitement.

The action is nonstop and fierce, and even the halftime shows are exciting to watch.

I

hope that every student and faculty and staff member would get to have a chance to go to at least one game this year because everyone has a great time and the team is looking better and better with each game.

The next home games are on November 18th against the Chicago Blackhawks, the 20th against the Montreal Canadiens, and the 24th against the Vancouver Canucks.



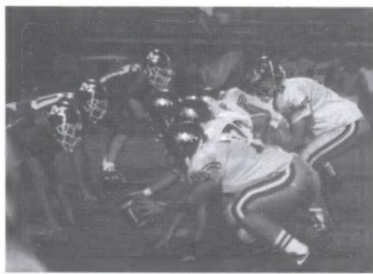
Football Team Caps Undefeated Season

By Ben Thompson

If any critics remained after the Big Red had rolled to an 8-0 record, having outscored their opponents 235-41 and earned national ranking, the team certainly silenced any voices with their two strongest victories of the season coming against division opponents. Both the multi-faceted offense and the unrelenting defense showcased their best efforts, and the team only appeared to be improving as the playoffs approached.

On October 15, with everyone having finally locked up a hot date, the Bake Sale busy in the morning, the smells of fresh, if somewhat rubber-tasting

against the JV punt coverage, but the fans were not dismayed by the fact that there was no shutout. As for the offense, quarterback Ingle Martin led



Big Red offense poised at the line of scrimmage

a backfield that was without its senior star tailback, Jonas Rodriguez, for the second straight week, to another 100-yard outing, with Martin himself scoring a quick touchdown. Juniors Murphy and Osemwegie filled the running back spot well, with great blocking help as always

from Ellis and Parkes. In the end, the Big Red had a 47-7 win and plenty to dance about on Saturday night: they had clinched the Division II-AA regular season championship.

The next week was a bye week

that the next week's opponent was going to be the most important of the season: the Father Ryan Fighting Irish. Now, much has been said about Nashville's most storied and bitter rivalry in the past, but c'mon, did you really think the Irish stood a chance? Obviously, somebody from the school did, and they showed it by painting "Irish will crush Big Red" in bright colors on MBA's game field. Said Coach Hiatt of the prank: "I'm very impressed by the craftsmanship." The art skills of certain Ryan students, however, were not anything close to enough to give them a realistic shot at MBA.

The team buses rolled into Vanderbilt Stadium right on time, and the Irish fans were a little late. It looked like the Ryan football team never even showed up. The Big Red offense jumped all over their rivals, with quick

touchdowns by Martin and Osemwegie. The Irish offense couldn't get anything going early on, and the Big Red capitalized on good

field position. In the second quarter, on the game's most exciting play,



The sacks keep piling on

Rodriguez, back from his hamstring injury, threw a halfback option pass to a wide open Mark McDonald for the Big Red's fourth touchdown. Although the Irish scored on a 41 yard touchdown pass and although a fight broke out just before the half, instigated by Ryan, MBA felt confident and in control heading into the locker room. In the second half, they tacked on two more touchdowns and ended up winning 55-12, the biggest blowout of Ryan in recent memory.

It was the running game that dominated this time. Rodriguez lead the

Continued on page 12



Coach Ricky Bowers talking to his players

spaghetti emanating from the gymnasium, and the silly-looking t-shirts draped over little microbes, it was clear that MBA's Homecoming was upon us.

But on Friday night, the Christian Brothers Purple Wave didn't look like the normal Homecoming opponent against the Big Red. Supposedly a rising Division II powerhouse, the Brothers were forced to leave Nashville wondering, "We drove three hours just to get spanked around like this?" The Big Red took care of business early, and by the second half the starters were laughing joyously on the sidelines. The defense, led by seniors Barton Simmons, Tate Rich, Carlton Stewart, James Pitman, Clark Lea, Andrew Ellis, K.B Parkes, and Dominick Smith, along with hard-hitting juniors Moses Osemwegie, Dominique Morris and Reid Murphy, once again did not allow a point. The only Purple Wave touchdown came



Quarterback Ingle Martin tries to break a tackle

for the undefeated Big Red, which they spent finishing their themes, taking college trips during the long weekend, and having relatively easy fundamental practices. But Coach Bowers and the rest of the team knew



The stifling defense at work

Top Ten Reasons the 1999 Football Team is the Best Ever

By Johnny Sisk

10. Unbeknownst to many hard-core fans, Coach Bowers' early-season decision to bench popular but rabies-infested Big Red Dog Ian McDaniel in favor of surprisingly good quarterback named Ingle
9. Instead of going over coaches' halftime adjustments, players now treated to the hilarious antics of another winning team in their own right, Don Johnson and Cheech Marin, on *Nash Bridges*
8. How could you possibly lose with Captain Joe Crane manning the ship?
7. To give players much needed rest, Coach Redmond now playing entire fourth quarter by himself
6. Sophomores now getting water for the managers—okay, even I don't believe that one
5. After spending season in rotting Currey hellhole, team able to win even while loopy on dangerous sewer fumes that did Coach Tillman in for good
4. Bowers now calls timeouts just so captains can help him get hard-to-handle rubber bands back in his train track of a mouth
3. Team's winning secret: pre-game pep talks from world renown race-walking champion Simon Grace
2. With Eric Larence's devastating injury, manager Ben Thompson able to "step it up" at linebacker position
1. ITwo words: Joe Davis



Joe Davis with the cheerleaders

Basketball Suits Up

By Sumeet Vaikunth

The 1999-2000 Big Red Basketball team looks to build off a disappointing season last year and win the 2000 state championship. Last



year, the Big Red played tough in most of their games, having a chance to win it at the end, but coming a few points short most of the time as in games with U.S.N., White County, B.A., Father Ryan, and both games with Goodpasture and White House. Even though the Big Red did not sport a winning record going into the region tournament, sights were set on imitating the 1998 state championship team, but by looking ahead to a potential match-up with Father Ryan and other complications, the team was seriously outplayed by a less talented, but much more determined University School team in the first round. This year's team, though, returns thirteen experienced players, highlighted by 4th year starter Barton Simmons and the highly recruited, 6-10 Dan Banko. The six other returning are Jonas Rodriguez, Eric Larence, James Pitman, Carlton Stewart, Mason

Guiffre, and Jay Pettus. The returning juniors are highlighted by Moses Osemwegie, and include Ingle Martin, Evan Abrahams, Steve Ingram, and Dominique Morris. This year's main competition in Division II seems to be from defending state champion Father Ryan and the highly talented Brentwood Academy which will return four starters including 6-10 David Harrison, 6-8 Glenn Eddy, 6-5 Jerry Brown, and point guard Brandon Potter. The

team will have to face a tough schedule throughout the season which will hopefully pay off during tournament time. The season kicks off the week of November 29th with the team having the chance to get back at three teams it went a combined 0-4 against last season, two-time defending AAA state champion White County, Division II state runner-up Goodpasture (no longer in Division II), and AAA state tournament participant Whites Creek. The team has enough talent to win the state championship, but the same factors that cost the team last year are the questions this year. How determined is this team to win state and how much are they willing to sacrifice to do so? This year's eight seniors will not have another chance as they had last year. For them it is now or never.



Coach Jerry Meyer, gearing up for a new season

It's Speedo Time Again on the Hill

By Andrew Frazer

Pull up your Speedo and strap on your goggles. Believe it or not, it's swimming time at MBA once again.

The MBA Swim Team kicks off another promising year in November. This year's schedule includes meets against perennial State powers McCallie and Baylor, as well as Brentwood High School, Brentwood Academy, and Farragut.

After losing three All-Americans (Baird, Peter Chen, and

Adrian Cameron) to graduation, this year's team will have serious challenges against stronger opponents. However, the team is still Region Champions and has a good chance to defend that title in February. The leadership from seniors Robert Farringer, Andrew Frazer, Brandon Jones, Chris Kellam, Greg Nanney, David Pruitt, Jeff Ramsey, and Jay Webb will prove to be all-important as the team prepares for another successful season.

Bowling Fever

By Michael Pass

Last week I attended the 1999 MBA Bowling tryouts. Much of what I saw at Playmore lanes reassured me that MBA has a fine bowling program. Commander Carr will have the good fortune of coaching five returning veterans this season, and he guaranteed that MBA has been ranked 22nd in the nation by USA Today.

Although I am a bit skeptical on our national standings, the leadership of the Commander and bowlers Josh Eaves, Josh Ritter, Taylor Sutherland, Miller Harris, and Tee Isenhour, is sure to make this year's team, an excellent one.

On game days, the team meets for pre-match breakfasts, where the players take part in massive carbo-loading. Commander Carr assured me that our bowlers use no illegal steroids, only all natural muscle enhancers, such as popcorn, peanuts, Doritos, bacon, bratwurst, and sub sandwiches. After the carbo-loading, there is usually two full hours of silent time, where players are encouraged to visualize each and every shot they will take during the course of the match. Taylor Sutherland psyches himself out before matches by wearing overalls (nothing underneath) and picturing the

pins as ten Commander Carrs. The match then usually lasts around two hours, and in the end, MBA bowlers are often rewarded for all of their hard work by the unparalleled feeling of victory.

There are many reasons to come out and support the Big Red Bowling team this season. Most important, of course, are the bowling chicks. These lovely young debutantes, who frequent the bowling alleys on weekday afternoons, are always more than happy to talk, and one might even be so lucky as to obtain a phone number. The combination of groupies, chicks, excitement, tears, smiles, and the opportunity to see the Commander fired up, are all reasons to come out and watch some of the matches this year. In the words of the notorious Taylor Sutherland: "The MBA bowling tradition is unparalleled on campus. There is no budget, no fame, and no perks. Everyone is out here for the pure love of the game. Something about bowling brings a tear to my eye." Bowling means a lot to these men of pride, who dare to suit up and bowl in the name of MBA day in and day out, and I hope that bowling will mean as much to the rest of us as well.

Titans Rolling at 6-2

By Michael Pass

When discussing the best organizations in the National Football League, one might think of the Dolphins, Rams, Packers, or Tennessee? Following an impressive win against the formerly unbeaten St. Louis Rams, the Titans were tied for the best record in the league. (The disappointing loss to the Miami Dolphins put them at 6-2 and in second place in the AFC Central.)

They have beaten a few mediocre teams, but they have also pulled out wins against the Sports Illustrated pick for the Super Bowl, the Jacksonville Jaguars, and most recently against the unbeaten St. Louis Rams. Despite their almost perfect record, there are still many questions for the Titans. In all six of their victories, the game could potentially have gone either way. Tennessee could very easily be 2 and 6 rather than 6 and 2. So where does Tennessee really stand in the playoff picture?

Obviously it is still too early to say how far the Titans will advance in post-season play, however, this team

must be given credit where credit is due. They seem to find ways to win, and they win against good teams. In their only loss this season to San Francisco, the Titans had an opportunity to tie the game with a two point conversion in the closing minutes. A conservative run to Eddie George cost Jeff Fisher and Tennessee the game. Play calling may play a big role in the fact that the Titans have come close to losing so many games. Just when the offense seems to be opening up and the Titans build a substantial lead, the electricity is obliterated by a couple of worthless passes and short runs up the middle. The second half against the Rams was characterized by a lack of first downs by the Titans and a huge comeback by the Rams. Thanks to penalties and a missed field goal, Tennessee was able to hold on and win narrowly.

Despite over-conservative play-calling and close games, the fact remains that the Titans are one of the premiere teams in the NFL. As long as they keep winning, no matter how ugly it may be, no one can complain.

COGITO, ERGO VROOM

By Taylor Sutherland
Niel Alden's
1988 Ford Bronco XLT
Vehicle type



Two door truck
Price as tested: \$23,000
Price and option break-down:
Base '88 Bronco-\$10,00; CB

antenna
(with CB
ripped out
by former
owner after
purchase)-
\$250;
Chrome
Brush
Guard
attached to
bumper not
frame - \$1000 installed; KC lights
(now gone after a run-in with a
parking garage) - \$250 installed; CD
player with speakers that work
occasionally - \$500; Dual exhaust -
\$425; Rusty
yellow gas tank
\$12; 33-inch flat
spare tire with
gaping hole due to
puncture by either
knife or screw-
driver - \$315;
Aluminum strip on
hood that serves
no real purpose
beyond that of
aesthetics - \$2;
Grant Racing
Performance Package (includes Grant
Racing steering wheel, lift, big tires,
overdrive gear, noticeable body sag,
faulty heating and cooling system, and
windshield wipers) - \$1500; external
handles on the top (for use in emer-
gency getaway circumstances) - \$4

TS Test Results:

Zero to 60: 15 seconds

..... to 100: yeah, right, this
thing starts shaking like an airplane in
turbulence at around
55

Street start 5-
60: 12 seconds

Handling:

Handling is not
the right term to use
when considering this
Bronco. It is more of
a body sway and roll
effect. Kind of like
riding on top of a
bowl of Jell-o. N.B.:
Any attempts at
taking sharp turns
while driving over 10
mph results in a
definite feeling of
tipping over associ-
ated with the

vehicle's gross top-heaviness.

Test Drive Summary:

The first thing you notice when
you step up to Niel's Bronco is that is

one very large
machine. The
shocks are
visible behind
the oversized
tires and the
cloudy gray
metallic
testosterone
roaring through
the veins. This
feeling wanes

immediately, though, as you open the
driver-side door and notice the dainty
red steering wheel. This steering
wheel would undoubtedly be more at
home on the steering column of a



nitrous oxide-boosted Honda Civic
than on this fine American truck.
Looking beyond the wheel, you notice
a plush interior full of late-80's Ford
truck extras: a fold-down back seat, a
console large enough to hide a hefty
baby, and recliner-like bucket seats.

The beast really endears itself at the
turn of the key, assuming it starts. As
the big Detroit V-8 roars to life, you
can't help but notice the exhaust note
and smell. Cruising around on the
backroads of Williamson County, I
noticed that driving this truck feels
like you are at the
helm of a massive
luxury liner, a
feeling
which again seems
quite at odds with
that goofy racing
steering wheel.
More noticeable
than this feeling
of power,
however, is the
lack of power in
the heater and air
conditioning unit. It seems that the
former owner, who Niel claims added
all of the racing goodies, decided to
save a few pounds simply by remov-
ing the necessary components to
maintain a comfortable cabin tempera-
ture. This fact proves especially
bothersome in the mornings when you
have to squeeze the windshield
repeatedly to keep the fog on the
inside from limiting your view.

At a first glance, it would seem
as if Niel's truck is almost unremark-
able in a parking lot full of SUVs and

trucks, that it is just another one of
the boys. Well, it isn't. Niel's Bronco
separates itself by having an unparal-
leled amount of character. Over half
of the electrical add-ons do not work
and the exterior appearance brings
forth images of a "tough truck." For

the uncultured
and provincial
members of the
reading
audience, the
term "tough
truck" is
rooted in the
tough truck
competitions
which are a
major part of
every monster
truck rally. The

tough trucks are vehicles owned and
driven by spectators and are usually
valued at less than \$500. Some might
even call it a colossal eye sore which
is barely worth the dynamite it would
take to blow up. But for those of us
who have experienced the thrill of
attempting to drive this beast, and
harness its lack of power, such claims
are absolutely right. But for Niel, a
man who prides himself in angering
others, this Bronco is just an exten-
sion of who he is. For that reason, we
must love it.



Top Ten Good Things About New Campus Additions

By Johnny Sisk

- Automatic eye urinals and toilets erase students' having to flush ... as if they did before
- Faulty sundial provides seniors solid excuse for being late to new '60's seminar
- Expansion speeds up administration's fifteen-year "Grass-Free Campus Campaign"
- Finished building just before new millenium so that all students can stand there and laugh when it's reduced to a stinking pile of rubble after Y2K hits campus
- New campus additions provide untalented and painfully desperate newspaper staff with badly needed articles
- With apparent realization that they have absolutely nothing else to put in new stadium-sized lecture hall, school looking to start its own arena football franchise
- Once popular Davis Building (that's so early '90's), recently seen visiting Mr. Jones about inferiority complex in shadow of new science museum, er, building
- New additions finally address students' most pressing need and school's most glaring embarrassment: massive patio shortage!
- With new Massey Commons Coliseum, school can finally play host to popular travelling shows such as American Gladiators and Ringling Brothers' Circus
- More lab space - more deadly dangerous chemicals!

ZZ Top and Skynyrd Blow Arena Away

By Michael Pass

In a world dominated by rap and hardcore hip hop slash heavy metal punk music, a Sunday night at the Nashville Arena gave me the satisfaction of knowing that somewhere out there, classic rock and roll lives on. No two bands touring today better represent what is good in rock, than Lynard Skynyrd and ZZ Top.

After hearing a few songs from the opening band, my spirits were running low, owed to their repulsively unoriginal sound and performance. Did they represent the future of rock?

My skepticism concerning the future of rock music was immediately obliterated, when a certain southern rock band took the stage. As the Stars and Bars could be seen waving in the air, the atmosphere of the Arena changed into a frenzy of southern pride and excitement. Lynard Skynyrd put on a great performance, playing songs that represented the Skynyrd of both old and new. A band that is characterized by loss is no less

characterized by perseverance. A plane crash, years ago, killed their lead singer and some of his bandmates, but no plane crash could kill the spirit of Lynard Skynyrd. Although all but two of the band members are not original, the music and its meaning are the same. Skynyrd played several of their hits as well as tracks from their new album. They brought down the house when they closed with "Sweet Home Alabama", and hysteria overwhelmed the crowd when they played a fantastic rendition of "Free Bird" for their encore. It seemed that the night could not get any better, until a small band from Texas made their way up to the stage.

Two men draped in leather, gray beards, and sunglasses gave Lynard Skynyrd a run for their money. From their choreographed movements, to their big electric guitar sound, ZZ Top gave a truly great performance. Playing virtually all hits, and everything from the blues to heavy rock, ZZ Top changed the

concert from good to great. The crowd seemed to be the most excited about "Cheap Sunglasses" and finally "La Grange" which nicely lead into "Tush". A crowd that came to see Lynard Skynyrd, was more than impressed by ZZ Top, who kept the intensity from Skynyrd rambling on into the night.

Although Lynard Skynyrd and ZZ Top gave excellent performances, they occasionally showed

signs of their age. As the careers of these two legendary bands come closer to an end, the future of rock looks more and more dismal. With rap and rap/rock bands taking over the charts and the ears of young listeners, the classic sound of rock may soon be a thing of the past. So for all of you, who enjoy classic rock, relish the music of Lynard Skynyrd and ZZ Top, for when they are gone, so to may be classic rock.

Cinderella a Success

By Jamie Ranson

The St. Cecilia production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* opened on November 5. Although tryouts for this play had been overshadowed by the production of *Grease* at Harpeth Hall, the resulting shortage of male parts did little to detract from the SCA musical.

Most of you probably know the story of *Cinderella*, and some of you may have seen that NBC movie of it that came out last year with Brandy and Whitney Houston. The SCA production was very similar to the NBC movie, except that the play was about ten times better. Cathie Correia Stamps, the director of the SCA play, did one thing that the director of the NBC movie did not. She took a musical with a trite story and somewhat cheesy and uninviting song lyrics and turned it into a successful and hilarious stage show. And Mrs. Stamps did it without the use of computerized special effects.

The comedic factor of this musical was phenomenal. It included Betsy Dorch as the hilariously haughty stepmother, Lindsey Hutcherson as the nerdy Valley-girl-esque stepsister Portia, and Maggie Moss as the heavyset and belligerent stepsister Joy. Also, Sara Denbo played the condescending Queen,

Brittany Dalton played the Herald, who took his—yes, his—job way too seriously, and Kenny Holcomb was the self-centered King with a mid-life crisis, who wanted beer to be on the royal wine list.

Despite the unoriginal lyrics mentioned above, the music in this show was very well done. Jill Bader, *Cinderella* herself, has an impressive soprano voice and sang in character very well. Lenny West, a college student in his SCA debut, played the role of the Prince almost to perfection, with a flawless mellow tenor that would have made Dr. Cassell gape. The chorus, which included MBA sophomores Andy Gray, Ford Manning, and Patrick Simpson, performed admirably both in vocals and in choreography. And Elissa Norman sang beautifully as the Fairy Godmother.

My only regret is that it did not get the kind of publicity and recognition that *Grease* did. Nevertheless, it was a superior show and unquestionably deserved the standing ovation it got Saturday night.

Altogether, *Cinderella* pulled together an outstanding production, successfully taking what inherent drawbacks the show itself possesses and turning them into great music and comedy.

Rock at its Best

By Jamie Sperring

Smoke, lights, dancing, and music. This list just about sums up the incredible Memphis concert Santana put on October 9.

The entire band was incredible. Not a seat was empty, save for the intervals where the entire crowd was out of them dancing and cheering.

Starting out with a couple songs rarely heard, the band really got going with "Black Magic Woman." The first three notes of this well-known song were met with screaming applause from the entire crowd as well as empty seats and many spilled drinks. Carlos continued his concert with such songs as "Put Your Lights On," during which many fans waved around

lighters. This was admittedly an incredible sight. The lights at the Mud Island Amphitheater were dimmed so that all one could see, save the city of Memphis, was the band and hundreds of waving lights.

The band then brought on stage two very skilled surprise guitarists. They played for a couple of songs and each had solos, but when Carlos stepped up and took his own solo, the incredible difference was obvious. He outshone both of the other guitarists with his skill and style. The crowd was cheering for ages.

The two lead singers were also amazing. They gave it their best and

Continued on page 12

Bringing Out Confusion

By Will Choppin

Bringing Out the Dead is Martin Scorsese's latest New York thriller. Perhaps he should try *bringing out the point* for his next movie.

Although the movie may have had a well-made trailer, it is mainly just a fictitious documentary of hospital life in New York.

Scorsese's direction and the actor's acting were a bit confusing and uneasy to follow. An example is Noell (singer Marc Anthony). At the

start of the movie, he is begging for a glass of water at the hospital. Next, he sneaks out of the hospital and is daring street dwellers to kill him, and for the whole movie he is just running around the city. What is going on, and how is this at all relevant to anything? Perhaps Scorsese was jealous of George Lucas and decided to create his own Jar Jar Binks.

Scorsese divides the main themes of the movies into three different relationships between Frank

Pierce (Nicolas Cage), a paramedic haunted by the death of victim named Rose he failed to save, and other paramedics. First he with Larry (John Goodman). Although they both save Mary's (Patricia Arquette) father and rush him to the hospital, Larry seems to be food-crazed and is ineffective, leaving Frank to continue seeing this deceased victim everywhere he goes.

Day two Larry is gone and Marcus (Ving Rhames) has moved into the movie to provide comic relief.

It is now Saturday and Frank Frank's ambulance companion is a nut (Tom Sizemore). This character was both confusing and nonessential, one who is more into being a violent crimefighter than a valiant live saver.

And so the movie comes to a conclusion. I could not find what Frank receives from all these people, and I know I got nothing out of this movie. I hope Scorsese learns about the many places in the world outside of New York to exploit with a movie.

Cross-Country Finishes Second in State

towards the teams overall success was once again a sophomore, Morgan Miller. As the week of the State meet neared, fewer and fewer were welcome to run with the team. Only a chosen ten were invited to run each day while the rest finished after the Region meet.

Then, finally, it was Saturday, November 6, 1999. To those of you have not caught on, this date was the day of the State Meet. On a bright, warm Saturday, with the sun shining directly overhead, the top seven dominators took to the course to go up against the best runners from across Tennessee.

At about 12:17:44 seconds to be exact, the MBA Cross Country season had finally come to an end. As the scores were being tallied by the General and Coach Russ, the rest were waiting anxiously to hear the outcome. The tension was building, and then, the winner was announced. "And...the Champion of the World...Baylor High School of Chattanooga, Tennessee."

It did not go quite like that, but the picture was clearly made that the

MBA team from Nashville, Tennessee had not won.

Nevertheless, we did finish in a close second place. Morgan Miller once again had a great performance, followed closely by Nathan Mulherin, who also had an outstanding race. People also need to realize that being the runner-up in a state competition is nothing to be mad about. Sure, one might be a little disappointed; but then again, it is a team effort in finishing second. So, for all of you who did not run up to the top of your abilities, say to yourself, "We wouldn't have won even if I had run well." But all in all, it was a great day to be out at the Steeplechase, thanks in part to the most sickening, but then again, very funny (one of those things where you had to be there) display that David Pruitt put on by beating a little child to death.

We, as a whole, even the JV runners, would like to thank all the coaches, and Ben Davis (allowing the real winners to play Super Smash Brothers at his house during practices) for providing such a successful Cross Country season.

Football Undefeated

way with 164 yards on 13 carries and two touchdowns. Martin added 50 yards on the ground as well and passed for 112.

The Big Red concluded their

regular season 10-0 for the first time since 1967, and, with the way they have played against division foes, it looks like they are well on their way to another Clinic Bowl championship.

The American Language

much relevance in teaching German anyway. From what I understand from my father, who took four years of German and has been to Germany, his knowledge of German was neither sufficient nor necessary because, like France, the local population spoke decent English.

We take Latin, a dead language, because supposedly it will help us on our SAT verbal section. My sister took Latin for five years and said it did not help her at all. We also take it for its connection to romance languages (such as French and Spanish) to make those languages easier to learn. I had taken two years of Latin and not once did it help my performance when I changed to French. Spanish is possibly the only relevant language for an American student to learn because of our growing Spanish-speaking population. However, I have worked the past two summers with a co-worker from El Salvador and he spoke English well enough for me to understand him. The reason foreign people learn our language is because it is the official international language of diplomacy. Consequently the question for school boards is if all these people apparently already speak my language, why must I be forced to learn theirs? Many people have said that learning a foreign language will be received the best if and when it is taught at a young age. The parts of the brain that are active to learn linguistic skills are at their peak from birth to about age eight, which is why a person's first language is always the easiest to learn. My younger brother was exposed to French before he had even finished pre-school and he caught on quite quickly, but will he be able to repeat this feat when he is fifteen or sixteen years old? Therefore the question of timing comes in to play in this debate. If a kindergarten student can learn a different language with much more ease and a better understanding than a high school student, then why are students deprived of this field of study until it

is at the hardest time for them to begin it?

Another question which is relevant to teaching foreign languages is the choices of languages to be taught. Latin is a dead language and German is hardly spoken around us. French is more widely spoken than these two, but it is a minor language when put in the scope of the population of the world. Spanish, however, is a very widely spoken language.

In terms of population Chinese, English, Spanish, Arabic, and Hindi are the most widely used languages in the world, but for reasons unknown, only one of these is taught to the typical American student. So, if we must take these classes, why not take languages that are the most relevant to a child of the 21st century.

I am not saying that the teaching of foreign languages should be dropped all together. Some people enjoy these classes and happen to excel in them. If you are one of these people, then more power to you. I respect someone who can do something that I cannot.

My point is that I neither want to ban nor require foreign language classes. Rather, I feel that they should be made optional learning material for all American students who desire to be bilingual. For the majority of American students, however, it is not worth the trouble. If schools insist that we as students must learn another language, why not teach more substantial ones at a younger age? It is simply a more logical way to approach this matter. I might not enjoy my math class as much as my history class, but I still understand why I must take math. And I might enjoy English more than science, but I have no qualms with taking a science class. I simply can not understand why I will need to know the language of another country at any point in my life. If it was my decision, the entire American school system would be reorganized to include more classes that do help us in our life experiences.

Santana Concert

were met with shouts of praise from the crowd. It wasn't until near the end of the concert that the band played what could be called its most famous song, "Oye Como Va." This too was met with intense acclamation from the crowd. I regret to say though that they did not play my personal favorite, "She's Not There."

Apart from this slight let down,

and judging by the three encores, the concert was a huge success.

Even though there is a great number of students out there who bash Santana opting instead for punk rock, rap, country, or pop, I can guarantee that if they saw this concert, they too would be as enthusiastic about this great band as I am.

East India Club

The East India Club sits on the second floor of Merchant's Walk Shopping Center, just at the edge of Brentwood. Starched white tablecloths, an immaculate setting, and attentive servers set this Indian restaurant apart from others throughout Nashville. The menu features a variety of traditional vegetable, lamb, chicken, seafood, and beef entrees, highlighted by yogurt, curry, tomato, spinach, and Indian spices. To buffer the often spicy dishes, East India Club serves an array of Indian breads. Reservations are recommended for dinner and Saturday brunch.



LOCATION:

Very close to the 1st
Brentwood Exit, off I-65

AT

4926 Thoroughbred Lane
Brentwood 37027-4226
(615) 661-9919

PRICES:

Lunch entrees \$5-\$9;
dinner entrees \$7-\$14.

HOURS:

Mon -Fri 11:30am- 2:00pm
Mon -Thu 5:30pm-10:00pm
Fri -Sat 5:30pm-10:30pm
Sat 12:00am- 2:30pm